

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

INSULATION DISPLACEMENT CONTACT AND CONNECTOR

[0001] This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/DE00/01343 which has an International filing date of April 28, 2000, which designated the United States of America, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Field of the Invention

[0002] The invention generally relates to an insulation displacement contact. More preferably, it relates to an insulation displacement contact for terminal strips, including a slotted, sprung contact region as a contact-making slot on a connecting bracket, wherein the contact region is surrounded and reinforced by an outer spring slip.

Background of the Invention

[0003] A known insulation displacement contact is disclosed in (DE-C1-197 32 182), for example. Further, DE 85 25 981 U1 discloses a two-part insulation displacement contact element, in which two separate contact elements having a contact-making slot are used. These surround both sides of a conductor with which contact is to be made, and pinch this conductor between them. When contact has been made, the first contact element surrounds the other, like a spring clip. The respective contact-making slots are widened like funnels in their entry region, forming an insulation displacement contact. In this embodiment, the insulation displacement contacts must be operated like tongs once the conductor has been inserted.

[0004] In the described, known insulation displacement contact, the material of the spring clip can be matched to the spring characteristics. Further, the contact region can be matched by shaping and the material coming to a compromise in order to achieve a cutting region and a contact region.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The invention is based on an object of developing the described insulation displacement contact further, such that its cutting characteristics and contact characteristics can be even better matched.

[0006] The described object is achieved by an insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1, for example. In this case, the spring clip is designed to form an insulation displacement blade in at least one end region. This results in a cutting blade, or initial cutting blade in an initial cutting region, of mechanically particularly hard material. As such, even

cold, brittle insulation on a conductor can easily be cut down to a conductive core. The shape of the contact region in the interior of the contact-making slot can also be matched to achieve particularly good contact characteristics. The contact-making slot can thus be formed with blunt contact zones in order to protect a contact core. This is due to the fact that the cutting blades which are formed from the spring clip, can be matched not only in terms of the initial cutting characteristics but also, if required, in terms of their secondary cutting characteristics.

[0007] The spring clip and cutting blades which are formed from the spring clip may be formed from suitably hard material. If required, the cutting blades may be specially hardened. The contact region may be formed from electrically highly conductive material.

[0008] The insulation displacement contact can advantageously be designed for use in a connecting terminal, in particular in a terminal strip, such that each connecting bracket forms a contact-making slot at each of its ends.

[0009] The spring clip and/or connecting bracket can advantageously be designed such that the limbs of the spring clip secure the contact-making slot in its position.

[00010] A connecting terminal having at least one insulation displacement contact can advantageously be provided according to one of the embodiments described above. In particular, a terminal strip having at least one insulation displacement contact can be provided in the embodiments described above.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[00011] The invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to an exemplary embodiment which is illustrated, in perspective form, in the drawing.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[00012] The drawing figure illustrates a slotted, sprung contact region formed as a contact-making slot 2 on a connecting bracket 1. This contact region is surrounded by an outer spring clip 3, reinforcing its spring effect.

[00013] The spring clip 3 is designed to form cutting blades 4 in at least one end region, in the exemplary embodiment shown in the drawing, in both end regions. The cutting blades 4 form a V-shaped entry region for initial cutting and for cutting open the insulation of a conductor to be inserted and to be connected. This can be followed by a secondary cutting region and also by the contact region itself.

[00014] In the exemplary embodiment shown in the drawing, a subsequent cutting region 5 is followed by a contact region 6, which is advantageously formed to be blunt and to be of electrically highly conductive material, thus protecting a conductor core. A secondary cutting region 5 may be in the form not only of the spring clip but also in the form of the connecting bracket 1, depending on the specific requirements.

TOTAL

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[00018] The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

MAY 28, 2001
1999P03326WO
PCT/DE00/01343

- 1 -

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Description

Insulation displacement contact, and a connecting terminal

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The invention relates to an insulation displacement contact, for example for terminal strips, which has a slotted, sprung contact region as a contact-making slot on a connecting bracket, which contact region is surrounded and reinforced by an outer spring slip. Such an insulation displacement contact is known (DE-C1-197 32 182).

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DE 85 25 981 U1 discloses a two-part insulation displacement contact element, in which two separate contact elements having a contact-making slot are used. These surround both sides of a conductor with which contact is to be made, and pinches this conductor between them. When contact has been made, the first contact element in this case surrounds the other, like a spring clip. The respective contact-making slots are in this case widened like funnels in their entry region, forming an insulation displacement contact. In this embodiment, the insulation displacement contacts must be operated like tongs once the conductor has been inserted.

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In the described, known insulation displacement contact, the material of the spring clip can be matched to the spring characteristics, and the contact region can be matched, by shaping and the material coming to a compromise in order to achieve a cutting region and a contact region.

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The invention is based on the object of developing the described insulation displacement contact further such

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that its cutting characteristics and contact characteristics can be even better matched.

5 The described object is achieved by an insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1. In this case, the spring clip is designed to form an insulation displacement blade in at least one end region. This results in a cutting blade, or initial cutting blade in an initial cutting region, composed of mechanically
10 particularly hard material, so that even cold, brittle insulation on a conductor can easily be cut down to a conductive core. The shape of the contact region in the interior of the contact-making slot can also be matched to achieve particularly good contact characteristics.
15 The contact-making slot can thus be formed with blunt contact zones in order to protect a contact core, since the cutting blades which are formed from the spring clip can be matched not only in terms of the initial cutting characteristics but also, if required, in terms
20 of their secondary cutting characteristics.

The spring clip and cutting blades which are formed from the spring clip may be formed from suitably hard material. If required, the cutting blades may be specially hardened. The contact region may be formed from electrically highly conductive material.

The insulation displacement contact can advantageously be designed for use in a connecting terminal, in particular in a terminal strip, such that each connecting bracket forms a contact-making slot at each of its ends.

The spring clip and/or connecting bracket can advantageously be designed such that the limbs of the spring clip secure the contact-making slot in its position.

A connecting terminal having at least one insulation displacement contact can advantageously be provided according to one of the embodiments described above. In particular, a terminal strip having at least one insulation displacement contact can be provided in the embodiments described above.

The invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to an exemplary embodiment which is illustrated, in perspective form, in the drawing, and in which:

a slotted, sprung contact region is in each case formed as a contact-making slot 2 on a connecting bracket 1. This contact region is surrounded by an outer spring clip 3, reinforcing its spring effect. The spring clip 3 is designed to form cutting blades 4 in at least one end region, in the exemplary embodiment in both end regions. The cutting blades 4 form a V-shaped entry region for initial cutting and for cutting open the insulation of a conductor to be inserted and to be

connected. This can be followed by a secondary cutting region and also by the contact region itself. In the exemplary embodiment, a subsequent

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cutting region 5 is followed by a contact region 6, which is advantageously formed to be blunt and to be composed of electrically highly conductive material, thus protecting a conductor core. A secondary cutting
5 region 5 may be in the form not only of the spring clip but also in the form of the connecting bracket 1, depending on the specific requirements.

The spring clip 3 and connecting bracket 1 in the
10 exemplary embodiment have recesses and tongues such that the limbs of the spring clip 1 secure the contact-making slot 2 in its position. This prevents the limbs from being tilted and deflected into a number of planes, even when a number of conductors are inserted.

15 In the exemplary embodiment, the connecting bracket 1 forms a contact-making slot 2 at each of its ends.

A connecting terminal having at least one insulation
20 displacement contact can advantageously be formed in one of the described embodiments. In particular, a terminal strip having screwless connections can be formed in this way.

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Patent Claims

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5 1. An insulation displacement contact, for example for terminal strips, which has a slotted, sprung contact region as a contact-making slot (2) on a connecting bracket (1), which contact region is surrounded and reinforced by an outer spring clip (3), characterized in that the spring clip (3) is designed to form an insulation displacement blade (4) in at
10 least one end region, with the cutting blade (4) on the end region or regions forming an entry region which is capable of cutting and is located in front of the contact region.

15 2. The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the contact-making slot (2) is designed with blunt contact zones in order to protect a conductor core.

20 3. The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the spring clip (3) and cutting blades (4) are formed from suitably hard material, and in that the contact region (6) is formed from electrically highly conductive material.

25 4. The insulation displacement contact as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that each connecting bracket (1) forms a contact-making slot (2) at each of its ends.

30 5. The insulation displacement contact as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the spring clip (3) and/or the connecting bracket (1) are designed such that the limbs of the spring clip (1) secure the contact-making slot (2) in its position.

6. An insulating displacement contact as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the

MAY 28, 2001
1999P03326WO
PCT/DE00/01343

- 5 -

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A1 } cutting blade on the end region forms an entry region
which is capable of cutting and is located in front of
the contact region.

7. A connecting terminal having at least one
5 insulation displacement contact as claimed in one of
claims 1 to 6.

8. A terminal strip having at least one insulation
displacement contact as claimed in one of claims 1 to
6.

Sub
A2 }
Add
B3 }

An insulation displacement contact, for example for terminal strips, which has a slotted, sprung contact region as a contact-making slot on a connecting bracket, which contact region is surrounded and reinforced by an outer spring slip. The invention provides that the spring clip is designed to form an insulation displacement blade in at least one end region.